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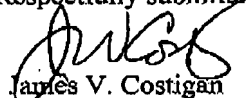
REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for withdrawing the final rejection in view of the Request for Continued Examination. It has been noted that claim 7 has been identified as an allowable claim provided that it was presented in independent form and included all of the limitations of the base claim from which it depended. In response, all of the rejected claims have been canceled and claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form. New claims 39-43 have been added to point out preferred aspects of the process defined by claim 7. Claim 39 points out the partial esters that may be used to make the O-sulphated hyaluronic acid derivative. Support for this claim is found in original claim 5. Claim 41-43 are supported by the specification at page 9, lines 3-10. These claims, which are dependent on claim 7, point out preferred reagents and conditions and are patentable for the same reasons that claim 7 is patentable.

This Amendment renders moot all of the rejections of record and it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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